

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE TRUE MEANING OF THE WAR.

From the N. Y. Times.

The die is cast. The Emperor Napoleon has once more stirred the blood of France by appealing to the last arbitrament of battle. We believe that this will be one of the most popular wars in which France has ever engaged. The same state of feeling exists in Prussia and North Germany. It is a contest the issue of which no impartial observer can pretend to foresee. Sympathies on one side or the other may lead people to predict success for France or Prussia; but in reality all that is certain is that the struggle must be one of the most desperate ever witnessed on the battle-grounds of the Old World. Those who suppose that France will easily succumb little understand the character of her people or the resources of the empire. On the other hand, there are more powers than one in Europe anxious to see Prussia humiliated. The smaller powers which she absorbed soon after the Austrian campaign may not, perhaps, be able to do her much harm; but Austria would be only too eager to embrace any opportunity of avenging Sadowa. When once the torch of war is lit in Europe, no man can tell how vast may be the devastation which it spreads.

Since the Italian war of 1859 it has been the boast of French statesmen and publicists that the Second Empire had introduced a new idea into European politics—that of nationality—and that the Emperor had shown, by refraining on that occasion from territorial aggrandizement, that he was engaged in going to war for an idea. The fatal expedition to Mexico was justified on the ground of the solidarity of the Latin race, whether settled in the Old World or the New. It is tolerably certain that the declaration of war just promulgated will be justified in France as a step necessary to free a Scandinavian peninsula from a German yoke, and to restrain Prussian ambition from its designs on the Peninsula. In short, the unfulfilled article of the treaty of Prague, which relates to Denmark, and the article which relates to the throne of Spain, will be the grounds on which the war will be eventually defended. Rightly or wrongly, however, the rest of the world will see in the present outbreak of hostilities an effort on the part of France to rectify her frontier, and to possess once more the left bank of the Rhine. For this represents a national desire older than the enthusiasm for freeing subject races, older than the concern for the balance of power, older even than the revolutionary propaganda which ended by changing the face of Europe.

Starting as it may appear, the historical fact of a Rhine frontier is 1400 years old. It came in with the Franks when they overran the Roman province of Gaul in the fifth century; it was established by Clovis, the first of Frankish kings; it was restored and then overlapped by Charlemagne, the "Emperor of the West," three centuries later; the great Philip Augustus made, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, a forty years' reign glorious by ruling over a territory that extended from the Rhine to the Pyrenees. Louis, the saint, retained the Rhine boundary, and added Provence and Languedoc, while Louis Quatorze, "the great monarch" par excellence, convulsed Europe, at the end of the seventeenth century, by his efforts to regain the provinces on the left bank of the Rhine, which had been wrested from his predecessors. Napoleon I only fulfilled a national aspiration when he made Flanders, Luxembourg, and other territories between the Rhine and the sea an integral portion of the First Empire, and Napoleon III is perfectly aware that he would cover his name with imperishable glory by making the Rhine, the Pyrenees, the Alps, and the ocean the boundaries of modern France.

It needs but a superficial glance at the map to perceive that there is a species of territorial fitness in this much-coveted Rhine frontier. Beginning at the Mediterranean, France is separated from Italy by the Alps and the Alps from Switzerland by the Rhone and the mountains of Jura; and finally, the Grand duchy of Baden by the Rhine. Just at the angle which the latter forms by falling into the Rhine, the natural boundary ceases and an imaginary line commences, which runs to the North Sea. Taking this line as the base of a triangle, and the further course of the Rhine and the sea-coast as the two sides, we have a territory one-half of which is occupied by the kingdom of Belgium, and the other by Rhenish Prussia, Rhenish Hesse, Rhenish Prussia, and a small slice of Holland, comprehending an imperial area which may be roughly stated at 24,000 square miles, occupied by a population which probably numbers nine millions. In language, not over three millions of these speak French, the remainder using either Flemish, Dutch, or German, with an occasional admixture of patois, compounded out of some two of these four languages. So far as national sympathies go, the German populations and the Flemish sections of Belgium have an intense aversion to France, while the avowed partisans of an extension of the empire only exist in some of the large cities of Belgium, and even there have but little power or influence.

Any obvious determination on the part of France to make a comprehensive annexation of the left bank of the Rhine would probably be a signal for a contest from which scarcely any of the great powers of Europe could stand aloof. The independence of Belgium is guaranteed by Russia, Prussia, Austria, and England, as well as by France. On the partition of Europe in 1815 it was given to the King of Holland, and after the successful revolution in 1830, the same powers that had consented to the treaty of Vienna concluded a fresh agreement in London, which made the maintenance of the newly created kingdom, shortly after accepted by Leopold of Saxo-Coburg, a question which each and all of them would be obliged to support by force of arms. The Prussian possessions on the left bank of the Rhine may probably become the immediate theatre of war, and the development of French policy will, no doubt, be mainly guided by the success or failure of the early operations there.

It will be seen that England used great efforts to prevent the final rupture, but of course in vain. The reasons assigned by the Emperor for declaring war are the insult offered to Count Benedetti, which certainly seemed to show that Prussia was not particularly anxious to maintain peace; and the attitude of Prussia in relation to Prince Leopold and the Spanish crown. The Spanish revolution has thus, after more than two years of mismanagement, resulted in a war between two of the greatest powers in the world. "Let us cross the Rhine," says Napoleon, "and avenge the insults of Prussia." It is quite clear that at this moment all France echoes back the Emperor's words.

AMERICAN INTERESTS AND THE EUROPEAN WAR.

From the N. Y. World.

One of the most humiliating illustrations which has yet been given of the incapacity and lack of forecast of the American Government in its present hands was furnished by the disregarded message of President Grant on the war which has so suddenly broken out in Europe. General Grant is quite right in supposing that we are in no state of preparation for the great emergency which has arisen in the affairs of nations. It is to be regretted that in a conjuncture so momentous we have a President who does not command the respect of his own party in Congress. The slighting estimate in which all General Grant's opinions and recommendations on public affairs are held is a fatal impediment to his usefulness, and to the weight of the Government in its international intercourse. His views are so habitually contemned and repudiated, that if a crisis should arise requiring prompt executive action, either in the assertion of our rights or the protection of our interests, the uncertainty of foreign powers whether the executive would be supported by the people would cast an air of infirmity over our Government at a time when it ought to maintain an attitude of imposing strength.

Congress was not perhaps very far wrong in the contemptuous treatment it bestowed on General Grant's message. It was doubtless absurd to expect Congress to mend the errors and omissions of a whole session, and of a long series of years, by hastily promulgated legislation at this late day. If Congress had complied with the President's wish and prolonged its session, it would have got into an inevitable wrangle, and adjourned a few days or weeks later without reaching any conclusion. It is impossible to extemporize a commercial marine and an adequate navy. The decay of our shipping and the uselessness of our public vessels is the consequence of years of neglect and mismanagement; and years will be necessary for regaining our lost strength and prestige on the ocean. These subjects have engaged much attention during the session, but the discussions have served no other purpose than to disclose the incompetency of Congress to devise any remedy. It would be idle to take them up again and make a new display of the same hopelessly dissentient ignorance. If this Congress acted on them under the stress of a sudden emergency, its action would be hasty, rash, and crude, and be likely to cause more mischief than it would prevent. Nothing is therefore lost by the contemptuous disregard which Congress has shown for the President's wishes.

But General Grant is clearly correct in his feeling that the country is in no state of preparation for the exigencies incident to a great European war. We, of course, do not expect to be drawn into the struggle. Our policy is strict, impartial neutrality; and in this view the crazy inefficiency of our navy is of little immediate consequence. But we are in no condition to reap the advantages of neutrality. If we held the same maritime rank which we did in 1860, the abundance of our shipping would render a European war between two maritime nations a great harvest for American commerce. The merchant vessels of France and Prussia are exposed to capture and confiscation by the ships-of-war of their enemy. The war, by crippling their commerce and raising rates of insurance, will throw a great amount of business into the hands of such neutral nations as possess the means of transportation. In former wars, we have enjoyed the full advantages of our neutral position, and have been among the chief carriers of the commerce of the world. In the great Napoleonic wars in the early part of this century, we laid the foundations of our subsequent maritime greatness by the profitable employment given to American merchant vessels by the interruption of European commerce. In the present war, Great Britain will monopolize the advantages which we should share with her if our Government had not blindly ruined our shipping and reduced us to abject dependence on foreign vessels even for our own trade. Without ships for the transportation of our own merchandise, we are of course in no condition to profit by our neutrality, and grow rich as enterprising carriers for other nations. While we have been occupied in investigating and humiliating the South and keeping alive the exasperating controversies which ought to have closed with the civil war, our maritime importance has dwindled under the blighting effects of bad legislation, until our improvident Government is suddenly awakened to a sense of national loss and insignificance by the shock of a great European war.

Our navy is in a state of dilapidation almost as humiliating as the destruction of our mercantile marine. It has recently been confessed in Congress, by committees who have investigated the subject, that the money lavished on our navy for the last seven or eight years has been misapplied and wasted, and that we have very few ships of war fit for ocean service. When other nations are at war, we cannot afford to be weak. Our security against trespasses and insults depends upon our ability to inflict prompt chastisement. The proper attitude of our Government is one of vigilance and conscious strength. Instead of this, we are in a position of conscious and (since the President's message) proclaimed weakness. The interruption of industry on the Continent, the waste of war, and the bad harvests which have happened to fall this year, will create a demand for our productions; and we have a strong interest in keeping open the channels of commerce and preventing any infringement of the rights of neutrals. We cannot afford to hold these rights at the mere mercy of other powers; but our naval weakness in this conjuncture subjects us to that mortifying necessity.

These are among the heavy penalties we pay for intrusting our Government to demagogues and fanatics instead of statesmen capable of appreciating the exigencies of national life, and possessing the foresight and wisdom to provide for them.

INFALLIBILITY—WHAT IT DOES AND DOES NOT MEAN.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The adoption of the dogma of infallibility does not impose a new faith upon Roman Catholics. With the theological aspects of the case we have nothing to do; and the varying opinions of Roman Catholic theologians we do not now consider; but we state as an undeniable fact that the Roman Catholic laity firmly believe in the infallibility of the Pope; that they believed in it before the council voted, and even before the council was called; that in fact this body has only now enacted into a dogma what has long been the simple, unquestioning faith of Roman Catholics in general throughout both Europe and America. Many may have doubted the wisdom of proclaiming the faith; but practically all have held it.

Neither does the adoption of this dogma threaten any schism in a Church which, by reason of its age, its vast extent, and its

powerful hold upon the minds of so large a proportion of the civilized world, must long remain an object of profound interest alike to theologians, the Armenians and others who, like them, have hung loosely on the skirts of Roman Catholicism may secede; but neither in Europe nor America will there be any serious, open disturbance of the harmony of the faith. We have not been allowed to print the debates, and only vague details of the actual proceedings in the council have reached the public eye; but whatever disputes there may have been among the theologians, there are likely to be none before the people.

What the proclamation of this dogma does is to sharpen the antagonism between Roman Catholics and the outside world, and to dwarf the powers and influence of their own hierarchy outside of Rome. It is a movement of separation and of centralization; it builds a Chinese wall between the world of modern progressive thought and the Roman Catholic Church, and it gathers the powers of that Church more and more within the limits of the city of Rome.

Between Roman Catholics and the rest of the world there is henceforth an outward and visible sign of a separation that is immutable. Roman Catholics do believe the Pope infallible. No other human being can possibly believe it; its influence upon systems of faith, modes of thought, developments of ideas, tendencies of progress, must be ineradicable, and the formal adoption of the dogma sharpens and intensifies it.

RATIONAL INTOLERANCE.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

We have frequently pointed out, and insisted upon the fact, that some of the principal errors which are usually regarded as the most brilliant discoveries of modern times, are in reality suitable only for very peculiar circumstances, and are therefore likely to become superannuated, and to cease to have any effect at all, after the lapse of a comparatively short time. The most glaring instance of this is to be found in the doctrines of which the toleration or rather the recognition of the civil equality of all religions may be regarded as the centre, and the growing popularity and probable ultimate establishment of the voluntary system in most parts of the civilized world as the most striking practical development. Most people now regard these doctrines as established beyond the reach of controversy. They are among the very first articles of the political and social creed of the great bulk of educated men; yet they are far from being absolutely true—they are a compromise which is destined sooner or later to be broken up, and we cannot doubt that the time will come when they will be as much exploded as their opposites are at present supposed to be. We have more than once given our reasons for this opinion. Those reasons are that toleration and the voluntary system can be justified upon one supposition only—namely, that rational certainty upon religious questions is unattainable; that we must be content with probabilities, that probabilities differ in force according to the constitution of the mind which contemplates them, that society can be constituted independently of religion, and that there is practically no limit to the extent to which religious theory, and that amount of its practice which is involved in its stated adoption, can be permitted. The practical inference from this view is the state of things as to all the moral and religious functions of society which we see around us. More and more the State in nearly every part of the world ceases to make any claim on what we may call the spiritual allegiance of its members. More and more decisively does it restrict itself, or appear to try to restrict itself, to what are substantially police functions, and to abandon the whole spiritual side of things, religion in all its forms, education in most of its forms, charitable efforts in nearly all their forms, to voluntary associations, standing to the State in all sorts of relations—some of them in a relation of independence, allied or defiant, as the case may be, and others in an attitude of dependence for some purposes and independence for others, like that of a joint-stock bank or a railway company, which promote the private objects of their shareholders subject to rules and contracts which are sanctioned and if necessary enforced by the law of the land. As this state of things has lasted for what in relation to the length of individual life must be called a long time—say, as regards this country, that it has lasted for the best part of a century, and has been gradually coming to maturity for nearly two centuries—it is not perhaps unnatural that people should regard it as a permanent condition of human society. We think, however, closer observation will show that this is not the case; that the doctrine is false in itself and unsuited to human nature, and that though a great length of time will probably elapse before it is seriously infringed on to any extent, signs are plentiful in all directions of the fact that it is really lame and impotent, and that the unqualified admission of its truth would in the course of time break up human society and transfer the allegiance of mankind from States to Churches and other bodies armed not with the legal but with the religious and popular sanctions.

PLACE AUX DAMES.

From the Cleveland Leader.

Miss Gail Hamilton, just home from a winter in Washington, fires off a column or more in Harper's *Bazar* on the subject of women's rights. It is the much mooted question of seats for ladies in cars and ferry boats that she is talking about this time, and this of course she says of it—"Do you complain that women do not thank you for your relinquished seats? You have no claim upon their thanks. You have no right to the seats. Not a man in any public conveyance has a right to a seat so long as a woman stands. Chivalry? Not a bit of it. Naked justice. You arrogate to yourselves the management of all modes of travel. You permit women no voice therein. You charter all the companies." We shall do Miss Gail the credit to assume that she knows better than this, and only scold at the stammering of her apt tongue, for effect. No gentleman will question that it is a manly, chivalrous principle that moves men to give place to ladies on all occasions, but the idea that because women do not thank you for your relinquished seats, you have no claim upon their thanks, is a very queer notion. It is a manly, chivalrous principle that moves men to give place to ladies on all occasions, but the idea that because women do not thank you for your relinquished seats, you have no claim upon their thanks, is a very queer notion. It is a manly, chivalrous principle that moves men to give place to ladies on all occasions, but the idea that because women do not thank you for your relinquished seats, you have no claim upon their thanks, is a very queer notion.

the object and nature of punishment to the conceptions of rights of property and person which pervade every definition of crime, has a direct reference to morals or religion, or both.

RUSSIA IN THE OPENING CONTEST—WHAT PART WILL SHE PLAY?

From the N. Y. Herald.

Has Russia forgotten Sebastopol? Thereby hangs a tale. The Czar Nicholas was hurried to the grave by the check he and the policy handed down to him by Peter the Great met in the Crimea. Has not this reflection been the canker-worm gnawing at the heart of the Czar Alexander, an empire headed by the magical name of Napoleon, and risen in the West to rival if not to overshadow the grandeur of that magnificent empire which, "the Prince of Rosch, Mosch, and Tobolsk" even in biblical prophecy was predestined to build up in the East. What power stood in the way, then, of Russian advance to that city of Constantinople which even the First Napoleon admitted to be the key of the East? Austria, is the historian's and the statesman's answer. Austria was crippled. By whom? First, by France under the present Napoleon, at Magenta and Solferino, and then by Prussia, at Sadowa, compelling her to relinquish Venice. To-day she is shattered by dissensions in Hungary, in Croatia, in Slavonia. Has Russia anything to do with this? Oh! not at all. The Pan-Slavic feeling, however, is at work, and that contemplates the building up of an empire in the east of Europe, partly at Austria's expense, which will not be hostile to Russia or an impediment in her way. The recent Austrian elections, take them as you will, prove this.

Has Austria anything to fear from Prussia? Why she is allied with her in blood; and Prussia faces and marches southward and westward, while Russia faces and moves southeastward. They act in parallel, not in rectangular lines.

What adversary, then, still stands, as in the Crimea it stood, antagonistic to the Russian advance upon the Golden Horn and the Holy Sepulchre? France! France at Suez, France in Syria, France on the Red Sea! Let Prussia be defeated and the French out of Italy, and the advance will then manage the Russian frontier, and French fleets ride in the Great and Little Belts and on the Baltic Sea.

Russian finance is not flourishing, but the Russian navy is strong and well organized, Russia's fortresses are splendidly equipped and armed, and her army, even in Europe, is gigantic, while her people and soldiery are alike fanatical. The recent emancipation of the serfs has also greatly inspired them. Her successes in the East, her recent victories in Turkistan, and her warm alliance with the Shah of Persia have revived the old ideas of Peter, the period for the settlement of the prediction "Europe in fifty years republican or Cossack" may not yet have come, but the question of supremacy in the Black Sea, at the Dardanelles, and at Jerusalem, is right upon us.

The position of Russia, therefore, in case of threatening French success, laying all the sympathies aside, must, perforce, be with the power that stands between her and danger on the West, and that strengthens and helps her against her sole great rival in administering upon the affairs of the Sultan and in establishing an independent and friendly ally in Egypt, on the East. Meanwhile, Russia will act upon her own lines of orbit, "by her inevitable momentum," as Nesselrode once termed it, and she will lose no time.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE CHESSNUT STREET BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. The following named persons, if they were on the Bank ARCHIBALD GRACE, which left San Francisco, California, in 1858, or their heirs or assigns, will find it to their advantage to address or call upon ROBERT S. LEAGUE & COMPANY, No. 125 South SEVENTH Street, Philadelphia. Immediate attention to this is requested, and any one knowing their present whereabouts will oblige by communicating as above.

James J. Nichols, Charles Brown, Absalom Cryers, John Baker, William Roberts, E. S. Wilson, G. W. Hopkins & Son, L. B. Dresser, William Rafferty, Daniel K. O'Connell, M. Barnes, R. J. Black, R. Blair, Mark Ferrill, John Anderson, John W. Walden, William Scortcher, William Callahan, John B. Jones, Charles N. Searles, A. H. Whitner. 637 t

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE CHESSNUT HILL, S. V. HILLS AND LOAN BANKING COMPANY, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD CO. No. 217 South FOURTH Street. PHILADELPHIA, June 22, 1870.

NOTICE—In accordance with the terms of the lease and contract between the East Pennsylvania Railroad Co. and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co., dated May 15, 1869, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co. will pay at their office, No. 217 South FOURTH Street, Philadelphia, on and after the 19th day of JULY, 1870, a dividend of \$150 per share, clear of all taxes, to the stock holders of the East Pennsylvania Railroad Co. as they shall state and receive with them, manage the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co. on the 1st day of July, 1870. All orders for dividends must be witnessed and stamped.

S. BRADFORD, Treasurer. Note.—The transfer books of the East Pennsylvania Railroad Co. will be closed on July 1 and reopened on July 11, 1870. HENRY O. JONES, 622 1/2 m Treasurer East Pennsylvania Railroad Co.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE JEFFERSON BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

PHILADELPHIA AND READING RAILROAD COMPANY, Office No. 217 S. FOURTH Street, Philadelphia, June 22, 1870. DIVIDEND NOTICE.

The Transfer Books of this Company will be closed on the 7th of July next and reopened on Wednesday, July 28. A Dividend of FIVE PER CENT. has been declared on the Preferred and Common Stock, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash on and after the 22d of July next to the holders thereof as they stand registered on the books of the Company at the close of business on the 7th July next. All orders for dividends must be witnessed and stamped.

S. BRADFORD, Treasurer. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE HAMILTON BANK, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, with the right to increase the same to five hundred thousand dollars.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN application will be made at the next meeting of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of a Bank, in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, to be entitled THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY, to be located at Philadelphia, with a capital of one million dollars, with the right to increase the same to five million dollars.

THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY, J. H. B. JONES, Treasurer. TWO AND A HALF PER CENT. payable in cash on and after Friday, July 16, 1870. 629 Walnut L. CHAMBERLAIN, Treasurer.

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